

REMARKS

Claim 1 and claim 12 are amended by deleting the wording "whereby the nitrogen content given in an atomic ratio of O:N is higher than 65:35" and introducing the wording "wherein in an atomic ratio of O:N, where O + N equals 100, O is in the range of 20-65 and N is in the range of 35-80". Hereby, the claim wording is clarified and the claim scope is limited. Support for this amendment can be found on page 6, line 19-20, where the O-levels of 65, 41 and 20 and the N-levels of 35, 59 and 80 are explicitly mentioned. As stated in the description, it is the intention of the inventors to produce a nitride glass having a high nitrogen content (as high as possible). However, since nitride glasses having a nitrogen content (relative oxygen) that is above 80 has not been explicitly disclosed in the Example section, the Applicant find it reasonable to limit the N-ratio to the range of 35-80.

Also, claim 1 and claim 10 are amended by substituting the wording "y is N or N together with O" with "y is N together with O" in order to limit the claims to the situation where both O and N is present (i.e. so that the ratio O:N is not 0:100).

Also claim 10 and 12 are amended by introducing the feature "whereby the composition comprises SiO₂", in order to satisfy the request of the Examiner and to distinguish the claim over the cited prior art. Support for this amendment can be found on e.g. page 5, line 6-10, as well as in the Example section.

Further, claim 7, 14 and 15 are amended by correcting "Gpa" to "GPa".

Also, as discussed during the telephone interview of April 15, it is our opinion that the present wording of claim 1 and 12 overcomes the prior art rejections since (1) it is clear that the nitride glass must contain oxygen. Therefore it differs significantly from Sterzel et al. Also, (2) with regard to Kobayashi et al., present claim 1 and 12 involve a nitride glass having a higher nitrogen content than Kobayashi et al, and therefore it is the opinion of the Applicant that the present claims are patentable over the cited prior art references.

Further, previous arguments, with regard to Sterzel and Kobayashi, are relied on here.

In the event there are any questions concerning this Amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Further fees, in addition to the fee for a further Request for Continued Examination, if necessary for the further prosecution of this application are authorized to be deducted from Deposit Account No. 501249.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 1 July 2008